*

Serge was so manic it took hours to slow him down enough to do shift change. By 10 A.M. I'd be speeding too. We'd still be smoking on the steps, two hours after I was supposed to go home (if you could call it that). Luckily I didn't have far to go.

Serge expatiated on Russian Cinema. He wanted to make a movie like Potempkin. Movies were being made right there, under the lens of our security camera, when it worked. They featured ourselves, with a lot of local losers, and guest appearances by the cops. We could have done the Odessa steps, Scarlet on the stairs of Tara, and any other iconic Hollywood staircase scene, on our own dark-varnished stairs….

At least Serge knew something about Russian cinema. In the course of one of our manic mornings he told me that the Great Theme since the Revolution was the "good bad man." He said it was because "the instability destroyed normality as it created a brutal new order crying out for regulation."

In post-revolutionary Russia the strongest regulatory forces were totally discredited. They were really just thugs. At least the army defeated the Fascists.

Serge said his family was communist. A lot of the families in